

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01900 011041Z
ACTION EUR-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01900

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETEL, GW, US
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH PAUL BARTLETT ON 209 MHZ

REF: (A) BONN 16901, (B) BONN 11759, (C) BONN 12272,
(ALL 1977)

1. ON JANUARY 24 PAUL BARTLETT PAID SEPARATE CALLS ON
THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ON THE
DCM. THE DEPUTY PAO, THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND THE
TRANSPORTATION/TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICER PARTICIPATED
IN THE MEETING WITH THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR.

2. BARTLETT SAID THAT THE USG HAD THE RIGHT, UNDER
THE 1952 US-FRG EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT (AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE US AND THE FRG REGARDING OPERATIONS OF CERTAIN
RADIO INSTALLATIONS FROM WITHIN THE FRG), TO USE THE
209 MHZ LONG WAVE FREQUENCY AS IT WISHED. HE ASSERTED
THAT THE FRG SHOULD GIVE THE U.S. EXTRATERRITORIAL
RIGHTS OVER THE MUNICH-ERCHING FACILITY AND THE 209
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PAGE 02 BONN 01900 011041Z

MHZ FREQUENCY, SUCH "AS THE FRENCH HAVE IN THE
SAARLAND WITH EUROPA 1," AND CLAIMED HE COULD PERSUADE
THE FRG TO GRANT THESE RIGHTS IF THE USG DID NOT
INTERFERE. BARTLETT STATED THAT IF HE WERE ALLOWED
TO BROADCAST IN WEST GERMANY, HE PLANNED TO HAVE HIS
BROADCASTING ENTITY WORK UNDER CONTRACT TO THE USG,
HAVE FRG BROADCASTING INTEREST IN THE COMPANY (EITHER

DEUTSCHE WELLE OR DEUTSCHLANDFUNK), AND BROADCAST ONLY
IN GERMAN AND ENGLISH TO WEST EUROPE.

3. BOTH THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR AND THE DCM POINTED
OUT TO BARTLETT THAT, EVEN IF THE USG HAD LEGAL BASIS
UNDER THE 1952 AGREEMENT TO USE 209 MHZ,
HIS PROPOSALS RAN INTO OTHER PROBLEMS, OF WHICH BARTLETT
WAS AWARE. THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR EMPHASIZED THE
STRONG EUROPEAN (NOT JUST GERMAN) DISPOSITION AGAINST
COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING AND THE PRESSURE THE FRG WOULD
FACE FROM ITS OWN BROADCASTERS IF IT ALLOWED A FOREIGNER
TO BEGIN COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING. THE DCM STRESSED
THAT WE COULD NOT UNILATERALLY TAKE STEPS IN GERMANY
WHICH THE FRG OPPOSED. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ANYONE AT
THE POLICY LEVEL, GERMAN OR AMERICAN, WOULD HAVE TO
SEE THIS ISSUE IN THE TOTALITY OF US-FRG RELATIONS,
WHICH ARE MULTIFACETED AND COMPLEX.

4. IN A LATER MEETING AT THE DCM'S HOUSE, BARTLETT
VOICED A LESS OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF HIS CHANCES OF
SUCCESS WITH BOTH HIS BERLIN AND MUNICH/ERCHING PLANS.
HE SAID OFFICIALS AT THE BPM TOLD HIM THAT UNDER THE
STOCKHOLM CONVENTION, EAST GERMANY HAD THE RIGHT TO
"VETO" ANY NEW TELEVISION CHANNEL PLANNED FOR WEST
BERLIN. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION CONCERNING ALLIED RIGHTS
AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN BERLIN AND THE NEED TO COORDIN-
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PAGE 03 BONN 01900 011041Z

ATE WITH THE FRG AND WITH THE BERLIN SENAT, BARTLETT
EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE NEED FOR
COOPERATION BUT FELT THE U.S. HAD THE RIGHT TO DO AS
IT WISHED WITHIN ITS OWN SECTOR IN BERLIN. BARTLETT
SAID HE HAD ALSO DISCUSSED THESE ISSUES WITH KUPER.

5. BARTLETT EXPRESSED SOME DISMAY AT WHAT HE CONSIDERED
A LACK OF USG COORDINATION. HE SAID THIS APPARENT
LACK OF COORDINATION COMPELLED HIS IMMEDIATE RETURN
TO WASHINGTON IN ORDER TO "FIND OUT WHO WAS ON FIRST
BASE". HE ALSO STATED HIS CONCERN OVER THE LACK OF
HIGH LEVEL INTEREST IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OVER,
AS HE EXPRESSED IT, THERUSSIANS DOMINATING THE EUROPEAN
LONG WAVE FREQUENCY BANDS, ESPECIALLY 209 MHZ, TO THE
EXCLUSION OF THE U.S.

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